

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5886

To restrict the diplomatic travel of officials and representatives of state
sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2008

Mr. BROUN of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. AKIN, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. SALI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To restrict the diplomatic travel of officials and representa-
tives of state sponsors of terrorism, and for other pur-
poses.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Limiting the Intrusive
5 Miles of International Terrorist Sponsors Act of 2008”
6 or the “LIMITS Act of 2008”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Countries designated as state sponsors of
2 terrorism represent a threat to the national security
3 of the United States.

4 (2) The United States is obligated to permit of-
5 ficials and other representatives of countries des-
6 ignated as state sponsors of terrorism to travel to
7 New York City to attend meetings and conduct offi-
8 cial business at the United Nations.

9 (3) Individuals from countries not otherwise le-
10 gally permitted to travel to the United States are
11 given visas for delegates and representatives to the
12 United Nations and other related diplomatic pur-
13 poses.

14 (4) In connection with the September 2007
15 meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, 21
16 delegates from Cuba, 144 delegates from Iran, 6 del-
17 egates from North Korea, 7 delegates from Syria,
18 and 16 delegates from Sudan were issued visas by
19 the Department of State for travel to New York
20 City.

21 (5) These delegates and representatives are in
22 addition to the number of domestically assigned na-
23 tionals assigned to the United States.

24 (6) Between 2002 and 2007, the Department of
25 State issued, with full diplomatic immunity, 1823

1 visas to delegates and representatives from Cuba,
2 2782 visas to delegates and representatives from
3 Iran, 132 visas to delegates and representatives
4 from North Korea, 1242 visas to delegates and rep-
5 resentatives from Sudan, and 706 visas to delegates
6 and representatives from Syria.

7 (7) The delegates and representatives from
8 Iran, North Korea, and Cuba, which are all state
9 sponsors of terrorism, are currently permitted to
10 travel up to 25 miles from Columbus Circle in New
11 York City for United Nations activities, far beyond
12 the necessary working vicinity of the United Na-
13 tions, giving them access not only to Manhattan, but
14 to surrounding cities and States.

15 (8) The delegates and representatives from
16 Syria and Sudan, both state sponsors of terrorism,
17 are currently permitted to travel throughout the
18 United States without any mileage restrictions.

19 (9) In June 2002, November 2003, and June
20 2004, Iranian diplomatic personnel from the Iranian
21 Mission to the United Nations were caught
22 photographing and videotaping the New York City
23 subway and other popular landmarks.

1 (10) The Department of State expelled these in-
2 dividuals for being engaged in activities not con-
3 sistent with their duties.

4 (11) Issuing approximately 6685 visas over the
5 past 5 years to personnel from countries designated
6 as state sponsors of terrorism, without proper
7 boundaries, creates a major security vulnerability
8 within the United States.

9 (12) The presence of hundreds of individuals
10 with diplomatic immunity from countries designated
11 as state sponsors of terrorism is overwhelming
12 United States counterterrorism and intelligence re-
13 sources.

14 (13) The United States has an obligation to
15 protect the American people against such threats.

16 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTION ON DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL OF OFFI-**
17 **CIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE**
18 **SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
20 sion of law, and except as provided in subsections (b) and
21 (c), the President shall restrict to the designated area the
22 travel of officials and representatives of countries that are
23 designated as state sponsors of terrorism who are visiting
24 the United Nations headquarters complex in connection

1 with official business at the United Nations headquarters
2 complex.

3 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the travel re-
4 striction described in subsection (a) if the President—

5 (1) determines that it is in the interest of na-
6 tional defense of the United States to do so; and

7 (2) submits to Congress a report that contains
8 the reasons for such determination.

9 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

10 (1) INGRESS AND EGRESS.—For purposes of
11 this section, the restriction on travel referred to in
12 subsection (a) shall not include travel to and from
13 John F. Kennedy International Airport or
14 LaGuardia Airport to the designated area in connec-
15 tion with meetings at the United Nations head-
16 quarters complex. Travel between the designated
17 area and such airports shall be direct and without
18 any intervening stops.

19 (2) ACCOMMODATIONS.—For purposes of this
20 section, the restriction on travel referred to in sub-
21 section (a) shall not include travel to and from any
22 lodgings or other hotel accommodations in which an
23 official or representative is staying if such lodging or
24 other hotel accommodation is within the designated

1 area. Such permissible travel within the designated
2 area may be made only by land.

3 (3) MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.—For purposes of
4 this section, the restriction on travel referred to in
5 subsection (a) shall not include travel to and from
6 New York University medical center or Bellevue
7 Hospital Center for emergency medical care.

8 (d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

9 (1) ON TRAVEL.—Nothing in this Act shall be
10 construed to prohibit the placement of additional re-
11 strictions by the City of New York, the State of New
12 York, or the law enforcement agencies of such City
13 or State on the travel within the designated area of
14 officials and representatives of countries that are
15 designated as state sponsors of terrorism.

16 (2) OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—Nothing in this
17 Act shall be construed to prohibit the placement by
18 the President of additional restrictions on officials
19 and representatives of countries that are designated
20 as state sponsors or terrorism.

21 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on
22 the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment
23 of this Act.

24 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

1 (1) DESIGNATED AREA.—The term “designated
2 area” means an area not greater than one-half of
3 one mile (0.5 miles) in any direction on the island
4 of Manhattan from the United Nations headquarters
5 complex, but does not include any waterway.

6 (2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term
7 “state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the
8 government of which has been determined by the
9 Secretary of State, for purposes of section 6(j) of
10 the Export Administration Act of 1979, section
11 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section
12 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or other provi-
13 sion of law, is a government that has repeatedly pro-
14 vided support for acts of international terrorism.

15 (3) UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS COM-
16 PLEX.—The term “United Nations headquarters
17 complex” means the complex of United Nations
18 buildings located in the City of New York, on First
19 Avenue between 42nd Street and 48th Street, with
20 the street address of 760 United Nations Plaza.

